

## A-level HISTORY

Component 2J America: A Nation Divided, c1845–1877

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Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

### Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7042/2J.
- Answer **three** questions.  
In **Section A** answer Question 01.  
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

### Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
  - 1 hour on Question 01 from **Section A**
  - 45 minutes on each of the **two** questions answered from **Section B**.

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**Section A**

 Answer Question 01.
 

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**Source A**

From John Calhoun's speech to the Senate introducing his 'Resolutions On The Slave Question', 19 February 1847.

Land acquired from Mexico is the common property of the States of this Union. Such lands are called 'the territories of the United States'. These territories are held jointly for their common use. And it is not consistent with the Constitution, or justice, that any law could stop the citizens of the Union from emigrating with their property to the territories.

Grossly inconsistent with equality and justice is the proposal that no state shall be admitted into this Union, which shall not prohibit by its Constitution the existence of slaves. This is a great outrage against the Constitution of the United States. Sir, I hold it to be a fundamental principle of our political system that the people have a right to establish what government they may think proper for themselves. 5

The Constitution is stable. It is a rock. On it we can meet our friends from the non-slaveholding States. Let us be done with compromises. Let us go back and stand upon the Constitution! 10

**Source B**

From a letter by Abraham Lincoln replying to James N Brown who had expressed concerns about Lincoln's views on slavery, 18 October 1858.

I believe the Declaration of Independence statement that 'all men are created equal' is the great fundamental principle upon which our free institutions rest; slavery violates that principle. However, by our Constitution, that principle has not been made one of legal obligation. By our Constitution, the States which have slavery are to retain it, or surrender it at their own pleasure. All others: individuals, free States and national government are constitutionally bound to leave the slave States alone. 5

I believe our government was thus framed because of the necessity springing from the actual presence of slavery when it was framed. That necessity does not exist in the territories where slavery is not present. In them, Congress lays the foundations of society and it is desirable that the declaration of the equality of all men is kept in view as a great fundamental principle. Congress, which lays the foundations of society, should be strongly opposed to the incorporation of slavery among its elements. 10

**Source C**

From a speech on the Constitution and slavery by Frederick Douglass, given in Glasgow, Scotland, 26 March 1860.

Let us look at the objectives for which the Constitution was framed and adopted, and see if slavery is one of them. The objectives set forth are six in number: union, defence, welfare, tranquillity, justice, and liberty. These are all good objectives, and slavery, so far from being among them, is a foe of them all. But it has been said that Negroes are not included within the benefits sought under this declaration. This is said by the slaveholders in America, but it is not said by the Constitution itself. Its language is 'we the people'; not we the white people, not even we the citizens, but we the people; and, if Negroes are people, they are included in the benefits which the Constitution gives. 5

I undertake to say that the constitutionality of slavery can be made out only by disregarding the plain and common-sense reading of the Constitution itself. It is in this mean and underhand method that the American Constitution is pressed into the service of slavery. 10

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying disagreements over the Constitution.

**[30 marks]**

**Turn over for Section B**

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**Section B**

Answer **two** questions.

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**0 2** 'The 1850 Compromise was badly flawed.'

Assess the validity of this view with reference to the years 1848 to 1854.

**[25 marks]**

**0 3** 'Poor leadership was the Confederacy's greatest weakness in the Civil War.'

Assess the validity of this view.

**[25 marks]**

**0 4** To what extent was the Fourteenth Amendment due to Thaddeus Stevens?

**[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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